

PROPOSED USE OF THE PLENARY POWERS TO SUPPRESS THE
GENERIC NAME "KOTOCERAS" YABE, 1927, FOR THE
PURPOSE OF VALIDATING THE NAMES "KOTOCERAS"
KOBAYASHI, 1934 (CLASS CEPHALOPODA, ORDER
NAUTILOIDEA) AND "DAMESITES" MATSUMOTO, 1942 (CLASS
CEPHALOPODA, ORDER AMMONOIDEA)

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The purpose of this application is to secure the current usage of the two generic names *Damesites* Matsumoto, 1942 (Class Cephalopoda, Order Ammonoidea) and *Kotoceras* Kobayashi, 1934 (Class Cephalopoda, Order Nautiloidea). Both of these names are threatened by the existence of the name *Kotoceras* Yabe, of which *Damesites* Matsumoto on a strict application of the rules is a junior synonym and *Kotoceras* Kobayashi is a junior homonym.

2. In 1927 Yabe published in lists and without any description a new generic name for a group of Upper Cretaceous ammonites of the family DESMOCERATIDAE, in the following terms :—

(in a list on p. 36) " ' *Desmoceras* ' (*Kotoceras*, Yabe MS) *damesi* Jimbo

" (") *laeve* Yabe (MS nom.) "

(in a list on p. 44) " ' *Desmoceras* ' (*Kôtoceras**) *damesi* Jimbo

" (") *laeve** Yabe

" (") *semicostatum** Yabe "

(on the explanation of plate 7, fig. 9 a, b)

" *Kotoceras* (*gen.nov.*) *damesi* "

(in this work an asterisk denotes a MS name)

3. Since the nominal genus or subgenus *Kotoceras* was published in 1927 and included a valid species (*Desmoceras damesi* Jimbo, 1894 : 172) it is presumably nomenclatorially available, despite the unsatisfactory nature of its establish-

ment and the apparent intention of its author that it should remain a provisional name for the time being.

4. In 1934 Kobayashi (: 391) published as a new nominal genus *Kotoceras*, for a group of Palaeozoic nautiloids, with an originally designated type species, of the new species *K. typicum* Kobayashi (: 392).

5. In 1935 Shimizu, in a work on the Upper Cretaceous cephalopods of Japan, refers frequently to zones named after various species of *Kotoceras* and on page 179 writes :—

Kotoceras damesi (Jimbo). *Kotoceras* was created by YABE with *Desmoceras damesi* Jimbo as its genotype . . .

Shimizu, however, gave no description or differentiation of the genus.

6. In 1942 Matsumoto (: 24), under the impression that *Kotoceras* Yabe was invalid and that consequently *Kotoceras* Kobayashi was valid, established a new nominal genus *Damesites* for the Upper Cretaceous ammonite group in question, type species by original designation *Desmoceras damesi* Jimbo, 1894.

7. The name *Damesites* is now in general use (for example in numerous papers by Matsumoto on Japanese Cretaceous faunas, in the Ammonoidea volume of the *Treatise on Invertebrate Paleontology* and in a recent work by Spath (1953 : 42) who refers to “*Damesites* Matsumoto, 1943 (= *Kotoceras*, Shimizu, 1935 *non* Kobayashi, 1934)”). Undesirable confusion would be caused if the validity of *Kotoceras* Yabe, 1927, set up in such an indeterminate manner, were to be confirmed, with the consequences that *Kotoceras* Kobayashi would have to be renamed and that *Damesites* Matsumoto would fall into synonymy with *Kotoceras* Yabe.

8. No family-group-name problem arises in connection with either of the generic names dealt with in the present application, neither of which has been taken as the base for a family-group name. The genus *Damesites* Matsumoto is currently placed in the family DESMOCERATIDAE, while, as regards *Kotoceras* Kobayashi, it is not at present possible to form a judgment as to its family position.

9. It is recommended therefore that the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature should, in exercise of its Plenary Powers :—

- (1) suppress the name *Kotoceras* Yabe, 1927, for purposes of both the Law of Homonymy and the Law of Priority ;

(2) place on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* :—

- (a) *Damesites* Matsumoto, 1942 (gender : masculine) (type species by original designation : *Desmoceras damesi* Jimbo, 1894) ;
- (b) *Kotoceras* Kobayashi, 1934 (gender : neuter) (type species by original designation : *Kotoceras typicum* Kobayashi, 1934) ;

(3) place on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* :—

- (a) *damesi* Jimbo, as published in the binominal combination *Desmoceras damesi* (specific name of type species of *Damesites* Matsumoto, 1942) ;
- (b) *typicum* Kobayashi, 1934, as published in the binominal combination *Kotoceras typicum* (specific name of type species of *Kotoceras* Kobayashi, 1934) ;

(4) place on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* :—

Kotoceras Yabe, 1927, as suppressed under the Plenary Powers in (1) above.

Reference:

- Jimbo, K., 1894 : " Beitrage zur Kenntniss der Fauna der Kreideformation von Hokkaido ", *Pal. Abhandl.* 6 (N.F.2) : 3, 149—194
- Kobayashi, T., 1934 : " The Cambro-Ordovician Formations and Faunas of South Chosen ", " Palaeontology, Part I. Middle Ordovician Faunas ", *J. Fac. Sci., imp. Univ. Tokyo* [2] 3, 329—519
- Matsumoto, T., 1942 : " A Note on the Japanese Cretaceous Ammonites belonging to the Subfamily Desmocerotinae ", *Proc. imp. Acad. Japan* 18 : 24—29
- Shimizu, S., 1935 : " The Upper Cretaceous Cephalopods of Japan, Part I ", *J. Shanghai Sci. Inst.* (2) 1 : 159—226
- Spath, L. F., 1953 : " The Upper Cretaceous Cephalopod Fauna of Graham Land ", *Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey, Sci. Rep.* 3
- Yabe, H., 1927 : " Cretaceous Stratigraphy of the Japanese Islands ", *Sci. Rep. Tohoku imp. Univ.* (2) 11 : 27—100